

2017 Rural Summit

Friday, December 1, 2017 –

Doubletree by Hilton, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, MD 21401

Call for Speaker Proposals

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) Conference Planning Committee is accepting speaker proposals. We are especially interested in presentations on best practices, engagement, and/or innovation in these areas:

- ✦ Agriculture
- ✦ Broadband implementation and access
- ✦ Youth Engagement
- ✦ Workforce and Economic Development
- ✦ Community Development
- ✦ Health Care
- ✦ Energy

Scheduled for Friday, December 1st, in Annapolis, MD, the 2017 Rural Summit will bring together an estimated 100+ professionals and grass root individuals from throughout Rural Maryland. Stakeholders include rural citizens; State and local government leaders; grass root nonprofit organizations that work in rural communities; and professionals representing health care, economic development, agriculture, forestry, workforce development, and community development. Outcomes include networking, listening, dissemination of information and resources, and the opportunity to collaboratively affect change and help guide future legislative agendas that affect rural people and communities.

Section I: General Guidelines

Presentations should reflect cutting-edge research and practical applications with a special emphasis on interactive sessions. The Rural Maryland Council Conference Planning Committee is accepting proposals for general and concurrent sessions.

1. **All proposals are due on or before Friday, June 2, 2017 by electronic submission** via the link shown in Section IV. Submit supporting documents via email as outlined in Section IV.
2. See Section II for topics and presentation requirements.

3. Speakers must have a thorough knowledge of the subject matter they are presenting and professional practice within the area(s) covered. The focus of the activity is to enhance knowledge and application of conference participants.
4. The Committee will review up to two (2) proposals per individual or group. Please do not submit more than two proposals.
5. Incomplete proposals will not be reviewed.
6. All conflicts of interest must be fully disclosed at time of proposal submission.

Section II: Presentation Requirements

1. Presentation topics are outlined at the beginning of this document.
2. Presentations should be no more than 45-minutes long.
3. Identify type of presentation:
 - a. Case Study/Lessons Learned
 - b. Best Practices
 - c. Tips and Tricks
4. To be considered as a speaker, your submission must demonstrate the ability to:
 - a. Provide compelling, timely and relevant content
 - b. Have the ability to effectively educate and engage an audience of 35-150 people for up to 45 minutes.
 - c. Provide relevant takeaways for the audience attending.
 - d. Refrain from selling products and/or services during the session. Any proposal or presentation that appears as if it constitutes a sales pitch in any way will not be considered.
5. Agree to allow the Rural Maryland Council to record the presentation, video or voice, and add it to the RMC online library for viewing post-event.

Section III: Evaluation Criteria

1. Proposals will be evaluated for topic relevancy, cutting-edge or new information, overall relevance to the identified topic areas as well as importance and benefit to Rural Maryland Council members.
2. Applicant's experience in practice, research, or presenting in the topic area.

Section IV: Submission Requirements and Notification

The following documents/submissions are required (incomplete submissions will not be evaluated):

1. Completed 2017 Conference Speaker Proposal Online Form [here](#)
Information to be submitted includes, but is not limited to:
Speaker Information – contact name, company/organization, address, e-mail address
Presentation Information – category, title, groups you have presented to, length of session, speaking fee, description of lesson(s) learned to be presented, abstract/session description
Other information – see online form
2. Curriculum vitae, or biographical sketch and resume for every proposed speaker. Please limit curriculum vitae to four (4) pages maximum. Your file name should be your last name with first

initial – CV format (jones,d – CV.doc) and should be submitted in MS Word 2007 or earlier or PDF.

3. The Conference Planning Committee will begin discussions with proposed speakers in June.
4. Notification of decision on all submissions will be sent via e-mail by Monday, July 24, 2017.
5. Questions? Please e-mail us at rmc.mda@maryland.gov ; use the subject line “Conference - Call for Speakers.”

About Us

The Rural Maryland Council (RMC) brings together citizens, community-based organizations, federal, state, county and municipal government officials as well as representatives of the for-profit and nonprofit sectors to collectively address the needs of Rural Maryland communities. We provide a venue for members of agriculture and natural resource-based industries, health care facilities, educational institutions, economic and community development organizations, for-profit and nonprofit corporations, and government agencies to cross traditional boundaries, share information, and address in a more holistic way the special needs and opportunities in Rural Maryland.

Our goals are to:

- Encourage healthy, connected communities throughout Rural Maryland through convening of stakeholders, education, public relations, and advocacy.
- Support the development and growth of vibrant economies in Rural Maryland.
- Foster stewardship of Maryland’s natural resources.
- Maximize RMC outreach, resources and mission through financial and organizational development.

As a collaborative partnership, the RMC operates in a nonpartisan and nondiscriminatory manner. Policy-makers and managers from stakeholder agencies and organizations at all levels of government and the private sector are valued participants. Where practical, the decision-making undertaken by the RMC is made by reaching consensus.

RMC’s vision is a future where all of Rural Maryland is prosperous with thriving resources, vibrant economies, and healthy, connected communities.